

**Deer Task Force
Tuesday, August 13, 2013
Town Hall, Old Town Road
6:30 p.m.**

Present: Ruth Perfido, Becky Ballard, Heather Hatfield, Betsy Theve, Bill McKernan, Paul Deane. Also present were Gloria Redlich from the Block Island Times, Bill Rader, and clerk Bonny Ryan to take the minutes.

Not Present: Lisa Sprague and George Mellor

Meeting was called to order by Ms. Perfido at 6:35 p.m.

1. Public Input – Ms. Perfido read the policy on public input. Mr. Rader spoke to the Task Force about publishing information about the Yale Tick study in the BI Times.

2. Approval of minutes from July 8, 2013

Minutes were approved with changes in a motion by Betsy Theve and seconded by Bill McKernan

Ayes 6 (Perfido, Ballard, Hatfield, Theve, McKernan, Deane) Nays (0) Absent 2 (Sprague, Mellor)

3. Ongoing business

- Report re: July 22 and July 31 meetings between DEM and DTF – See attached summary of July 22 meeting. Ruth Perfido mentioned that she had not received approval from the DEM to release the summary of the July 31, 2013 meeting yet.
- Discussion re: DEM participation in BIRA Annual Meeting and involvement of DTF. As part of their annual meeting BIRA will present information to their members on a managed deer hunt and a report from the Deer Task Force and from RI DEM. Suggested questions for the DEM were discussed.
- Educational Articles in Block Island Times.- George Mellor and Bill McKernan will continue to work on this.

4. New Business

- Heather Hatfield was welcomed as the new member of the Deer Task Force
- Discussion re: attendance at Town Council 8/14 work session - The summary update of the July 22 meeting and the article from Senator Schumer about the Powassan virus (attached) will be presented to the Council. Bill McKernan will contact Senator Reed's office to see if he has seen the article.
- Selection re: BIHS Liaison - Bill McKernan and Heather Hatfield will work together. They will ask for a position statement from the Health Services Board on the health hazards caused by the deer tick.
- Discussion re: grant possibilities for any plan funding requirements – tabled.

5. Discuss next steps

- Ruth and Becky will attend the Council work session.
- Heather and Bill will work on getting position statements from BIHS and Department of Health.
- Cathy Sparks, Brian Teft, and Jay Osenkowski with members of the DTF will attend the BIRA meeting on August 17, 2013

6. Next meeting: Monday, September 9th at 6:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m. at motion was made by Betsy Theve and seconded by Heather Hatfield to adjourn and voted unanimously.

Minutes accepted: 9/9/2013

Bonny Ryan